

## November 30 – December 7, 2014

### Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Kentucky's duck and goose seasons opened November 27. Most early hunting reports are favorable with hunters reporting a good numbers of birds. A light snow fell across some of the state which provided a late season backdrop for the opener. There was also some light icing early morning which disappeared as temperatures warmed later in the day. .

Kentucky duck numbers in many areas increase substantially from the last report. Many areas reported an abundance of diving ducks much higher than numbers recorded in years past. For instance Barren River Lake reported about 15,000 divers most of which were redheads but scaup and ring-necked ducks were also abundant. Ballard/Boatwright complex reported about 52,930 as birds moved back onto the refuge after the opening day. Doug Travis WMA 3,150 with mallards the most abundant reported. Duck numbers in west-central Kentucky are substantially higher than reported for this period last year. Duck numbers on Kentucky and Barkley Lake were about 20,000 including birds using Duck Island, but this was reported before the season and numbers have probably changed since then. Sloughs WMA had 7,650 reports 11,500 ducks last week this compares to 3,500 last year. The number of ducks at Slough's declined but number of white-fronted and snow geese increased. As you move into central Kentucky weekly counts were not conducted on most areas. Of those with counts Bluegrass Army Depot reported the greatest number birds with most of them being diving ducks using the Lake Vega restricted region.

Many areas could still use a more water especially those areas that rely on natural flooding events. Rain predicted this week should improve habitat conditions in many areas. Good Hunting!!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	47930 ducks 6,200 WFG 260 CG	87% mallard, 7% gadwall, remainder a mix of shoveler, green-winged teal, black duck and a few divers.	Most waterfowl on MSUs across the area. Mitchell Lake greatest species diversity. Dec. 3 was opening day for Ballard and the first day of drawn hunts for Boatwright. Most spots on Ballard are close to normal pool for this time of the year.
Barren River Lake	15,000 ducks 100 CG	90% divers (60% redhead, 20% scaup, 20% mix of ring-necked duck and bufflehead.l	Very dry. Need major rain event. MSU at Peters Creek only 20% full, Calvert Springs 60% full. Soybeans harvested Thanksgiving weekend.
Birdsville Island	No Count		

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes 11/26 Last Count	15,000 ducks	Suspect most birds are gadwall with a mix of other dabblers.	Good submergent growth this year due to good water clarity.
Duck Island 11/26 Last Count	4,000 ducks	60% mallard, 25% green-winged teal, remainder a mix of gadwall, pintail and wigeon	Habitat moist-soil only Water level near perfect right now. Surface area within Central impoundment is approximately 50% of capacity.
Boatwright WMA	4,527 ducks	70% mallard, 15% ring-necked duck, 10% gadwall remainder a mix of dabblers and a few divers.	Limited amount of flooded corn, some flooded milo and millet, abundance of food in moist soil units.
Doug Travis WMA	3,150 ducks	85% mallards, 15% mixed dabblers and ring-necked ducks.	Area is 65% flooded with 40%. Ducks congregated in southern MSU of refuge.
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	1,016 ducks 75 coots 46 CG 6 WFG	70% mallard, 25% mixed divers.	Water low in most MSU's.
Sloughs WMA	7465 ducks 450 CG geese 4500WF geese 8000 Snow geese 48 Tundra swans	90% mallard, 10% Gadwall, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, & Green-Winged Teal	Recent rains have increased water levels in natural sloughs, but conditions remain drier than usual across WMA.
Yellowbank WMA	600 ducks	80% mallard, remainder gadwall, wood duck, wigeon, pintail.	Most MSUs at 40% capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	2,500 ducks 10 CG	85% Diving Ducks (Mostly Redheads, Ring-necked ducks, Scaup) 15 % Dabblers	All lakes and ponds flooded. Diving ducks on Lake Vega. Most mallards in MSU
Herrington Lake	4 ducks	4 mallards on sediment pond	Lake open, normal pool
Taylorsville Lake	No Count		Shallow water embayments froze. Will flood MSU's next week if weather and water permit.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No Count		Dix River MSU's are dry. Need rain to recharge. Lake levels normal. Good vegetative margins.
Green River WMA	No Count		All MSU's and beaver ponds have some water. Lake at winter pool.
Cave Run Lake	No Count		